

A. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3, 9 and 27 and amend the remaining claims as follows:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Presently Amended) A modular martial arts training device ~~according to claim 3 comprising:~~

- (a) at least two tubular components, said at least two tubular components each having at least one joining end, an interior surface and an exterior surface, and
- ~~(a)~~(b) a connection means affixed within said interior surfaces of each of said at least one joining end to removably affix said at least two tubular components together to form a continuous shaft wherein said connection means comprises a receiving means affixed within said interior surface of said joining end of said first tubular component and a locking means affixed within said interior surface and projecting from said joining end of said second tubular component and wherein said receiving means comprises a pin mounted transverse and setback from said joining end within said interior surface of said first tubular component.

5. (Presently Amended) The modular martial arts training device according to claim ~~3~~4 wherein said locking means comprises a cylindrical component having an upper end, a lower end and an external diameter, said external diameter able to be received within said joining end of said first tubular component, said lower end affixed within said interior surface of said second tubular component, said upper end projecting from said joining

end of said second tubular component, said upper end having a hook to engage said pin.

6. (Original) The modular martial arts training device according to claim 5 wherein said locking means further comprises a spring fitted within said cylindrical component, said spring having a bottom end and a top end, said bottom end affixed within said lower end of said cylindrical component and said top end being about flush with said upper end of said cylindrical component when uncompressed.
7. (Original) The modular martial arts training device according to claim 5 wherein said hook comprises at least one J-shaped notch in said upper end of said cylindrical component for engaging said pin.
8. (Original) The modular martial arts training device according to claim 6 wherein said locking means comprises a spring and a shaft provided within said spring, one end of said shaft slidably affixed to said top end of said spring and the other end slidably affixed to said lower end of said cylindrical component, said bottom end of said spring affixed to said lower end of said cylindrical component.

9-27. (Cancelled)